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9 JUL 1989

25 YEARS WORKING FOR THE WORLD
AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS ABROAD

Overseas Service Bureau

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SENDER: Pat Walsh (ACFOA) DATE: 6/7/89

REMARKS: Carmel at TAPOL tried to send this for me yesterday but it wouldn't go through. Can you kindly pass it on to Luisa at CDPM as well. Thank you.

Pat Walsh.

Australian Volunteers Abroad

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ACFOA

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
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5 July 1989

Archbishop Cassidy, Deputy Secretary of State in the Vatican, said in Sydney yesterday at a news conference that:

1. the Pope had not been requested to meet Fretilin when he visits East Timor but that such a request would be considered;

2. that the visit should not be interpreted as Papal endorsement of the situation in East Timor but seen as a pastoral visit;

3. that the itinerary has not be finalised;

4. that the Pope could not visit Indonesia without visiting East Timor because of the large Catholic population there.

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I was asked to comment on Sydney radio and Radio Australia and made the following observations:

1. the people of East Timor have very high expectations of the Vatican and want the church to uphold their human rights and right to self-determination;

2. it would be important for the Pope to meet with Fretilin because they are a legitimate liberation movement who have the support of the people, comprise many Catholics and are essential to a just settlement of the issue.

Best regards

Pat Walsh

PS Has the UN responded to the Belo referendum letter yet? If so, is a copy of the letter available.

Try Sutrisno will visit Australia next week, 9-14 July. ACFOA has asked the Australian Government to raise the human rights situation in East Timor with him and urge negotiations and an end to the use of military force by Indonesia in East Timor.

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ACFOA is the co-ordinating body for some 80 Australian non-government organisations working in the field of overseas aid and development